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the old distinction between absolute and conditional contraband is practically destroyed, and belligerents have even attempted to make neutrals bear the burden of a policy of reprisals against the enemy, and have asked to be excused from the duties of humanity because of the inconvenience of carrying them out.

Chapter VI shows the position of the neutral government with respect to trade in contraband, and clears up the distinction between what the individual citizen may do and the state may not do. In Chapter XII the doctrine of continuous voyage is viewed from every angle, and the conclusion is reached that the conditions of modern warfare demand that the destination of the goods be taken as the test and not merely the destination of the ship, as in the earlier British cases. Chapter XIV deals with contraband in the war of 1914-1915 and is a defense of the British reprisals against Germany. An appendix contains the Declaration of London accompanied by the report of the drafting committee, together with other documents bearing upon the subject. An excellent bibliography, classified according to subject matter, gives additional value to a work which has much intrinsic merit.

C. G. FENWICK.

Anglo-American Isthmian Diplomacy, 1815-1915. By MARY WILHELMINE WILLIAMS. (Washington: American Historical Association. 1916. Pp. xii, 356.)

This book shows great industry and very conscientious presentation of material covering, in considerable detail, the entire history of diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Great Britain in relation to Central America. Large use has been made of the unpublished diplomatic records of both countries; and to these and to printed sources, reference has been made with a minute care which is almost meticulous, but which must be helpful to anyone making an equally detailed study in the future. Without present means of checking the author's statements of fact, it can only be said that critical attention has plainly been given to the perplexingly contradictory versions of all Central American affairs.

The author's judgment is balanced, and her presentation of the subject appears just. The book is far, however, from being the last word on the subject. Useful as the volume is, it is lacking in the power to seize the truly vital, to bring out with distinctness the larger aspects of the topic. On the basis of this intensive study, more significant

conclusions remain to be drawn. It would be unwarranted, however, to dwell too much on that which is lacking. The book offers a rather remarkable doctoral dissertation, and it must have given pleasure to the committee of the American Historical Association to award to it the Justin Winsor prize in 1914.

ROBERT T. CRANE.